

In The Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (presently amended) In combination,

a hub;

a needle secured to and extending from said hub;

a needle housing removably mounted on said hub, said needle housing having an aperture at one end with said needle passing therethrough;

a washer mounted in said housing and having flaps to define an aperture for passage of said needle therethrough whereby in response to withdrawal of said needle through said aperture said flaps flex inwardly to block a return passage of said needle through said aperture; and

a polyester film strip secured to and between said hub and said housing, said strip having a foremost end thereof secured between said washer and said housing, a series of longitudinally spaced apart apertures receiving said needle therein and being disposed in corrugated relation between said hub and said housing whereby in response to a withdrawal movement of said needle relative to said housing, said needle moves into said housing and into abutment with said housing while said strip is stretched between said hub and said housing to retain said housing connected to said hub under a biasing force.

3. - 4. (canceled)

5. (presently amended) ~~The combination as set forth in claim 3 further comprising~~ In combination,

a hub;

a needle secured to and extending from said hub;

a needle housing removably mounted on said hub, said needle housing having an aperture at one end with said needle passing therethrough;

a washer mounted in said housing and having flaps to define an aperture for passage of said needle therethrough whereby in response to withdrawal of said needle through said aperture said flaps flex inwardly to block a return passage of said needle through said aperture;

a polyester film strip secured to and between said hub and said housing, said strip having a series of longitudinally spaced apart apertures receiving said needle therein and being disposed in corrugated relation between said hub and said housing whereby in response to a withdrawal movement of said needle relative to said housing, said needle moves into said housing and into abutment with said housing while said strip is stretched between said hub and said housing to retain said housing connected to said hub under a biasing force; and

a second washer mounted on said hub and securing an end of said strip between said hub and said second washer.

6. (previously presented) The combination as set forth in claim 5 wherein said hub has a plurality of splines thereon and said second washer has a plurality of cutouts receiving said splines in an interference fit.

7. (previously presented) The combination as set forth in claim 6 wherein said second washer secures said strip to said hub with a breakaway force of greater than fifteen pounds.

8. (previously presented) The combination as set forth in claim 7 wherein said housing is disposed over said hub to receive said second washer therein.

9. (presently amended) ~~The combination as set forth in claim 2 further comprising~~

In combination,

a hub;

a needle secured to and extending from said hub;

a needle housing removably mounted on said hub, said needle housing having an aperture at one end with said needle passing therethrough;

a polyester film strip secured to and between said hub and said housing, said strip having a series of longitudinally spaced apart apertures receiving said needle therein and being disposed in corrugated relation between said hub and said housing whereby in response to a withdrawal movement of said needle relative to said housing, said needle moves into said housing and into abutment with said housing while said strip is stretched between said hub and said housing to retain said housing connected to said hub under a biasing force; and

a washer mounted on said hub and securing an end of said strip between said hub and said washer.

10. (previously presented) The combination as set forth in claim 9 wherein said hub has a plurality of splines thereon and said washer has a plurality of cutouts receiving said splines in an interference fit.

11. (previously presented) The combination as set forth in claim 10 wherein said washer secures said strip to said hub with a breakaway force of greater than fifteen pounds.

12. (previously presented) The combination as set forth in claim 11 wherein said housing is disposed over said hub to receive said washer therein.